

Amendments to the Claims

Please cancel Claim 2-5 and 9-11 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein.

Please amend Claim 1 and add Claim 12 to read as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A discharging apparatus having a discharge head in which a plurality of discharge nozzles are arranged to discharge liquids supplied from supply ports through discharge ports, and formed such that some of the plurality of discharge nozzles discharge liquids having different liquid compositions, comprising:

removing means for removing a liquid in each of said discharge nozzles by applying a pressure difference between the supply port and discharge port of each discharge nozzle;

wherein said removing means further comprises a cap member which operates to cover a either the supply port or discharge port, when removing the liquid in one of the discharge nozzles, so as to come into tight contact with the discharge head; and

wherein said removing means accumulates the liquids removed from the discharge nozzles through a filtration unit and a deaeration unit, such that liquids having the same liquid composition are accumulated together in a liquid collection container and can be used again;

joint members equal in number to a number of the discharge nozzles and being arranged to face all discharge nozzles, wherein each joint member operates to cover either the supply port or discharge port when removing the liquid in a discharge nozzle; and

a plurality of pumps for being selectively connected to said joint members through connecting members and removing the liquid in each of the discharge nozzles by applying a pressure difference between the supply port and discharge port of each discharge nozzle facing said connected joint member,

wherein different pumps are connected to said joint members which are arranged to face the discharge nozzles discharging liquids having different liquid compositions, and

wherein the liquids removed from the discharge nozzles through said joint members connected to the pumps are filtrated and deaerated, and liquid having the same liquid composition is accumulated together in a liquid collection container to be reused.

2.-5. (Cancelled)

6. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the discharge head comprises electrothermal transducers which generate heat energy for liquid discharge.

7. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the discharge head discharges the liquid from the discharge ports by utilizing film boiling caused by the heat energy applied by the electrothermal transducers.

8.-11. (Canceled)

12. (New) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the connecting members are detachable from said pumps.